

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 122351

R 141230Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1001

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SW

SUBJECT: CHARGE'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON

1. NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON RECEIVED HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AT MFA NOVEMBER 13. NEW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AID SUGURDSEN WAS PRESENT.

2. IN COURSE OF ONE-HOUR RECEPTION I CONVERSED ALONG WITH ANDERSSON FOR 6-8 MINUTES. BULK OF CONVERSATION WAS PERSONAL CHAT WHEREIN ANDERSSON CONFIRMED HE HAD WISHED TO LEAVE CABINET BUT WAS "DRAFTED" BY PALME. HE SAID HE WAS TAKING THE JOB LIKE A GOOD SOLDIER AND INDICATED HE WAS BRACED TO STICK IT OUT UNTIL 1976 ELECTION IF NECESSARY.

3. ANDERSSON EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS COMMAND OF ENGLISH, DESCRIBING IT AS A HANDICAP. (ACTUALLY IT IS VERY SERVICEABLE.) "I HAVE GOOD GERMAN, SO I CAN DEAL WITH YOU WHO SPEAK GERMAN ALL RIGHT, BUT MY ENGLISH SHOULD BE MUCH BETTER."

4. ANDERSSON DISCLOSED HE INTENDS TO BRING HIS BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC YOUNG STATE SECRETARY AT DEFENSE MINISTRY, ANDERS THUNBORG,

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OVER TO MFA. REGRETFULLY, HE SAID, HE WOULD HAVE TO DO WITHOUT

THUNBORG FOR 6-7 MONTHS BECAUSE NEW DEFMIN HOLMQVIST NEEDED HIS SERVICES FOR TRANSITION PERIOD UNTIL NEXT SUMMER.

5. ANDERSSON SAID HE WILL BE MAKING HIS "DUTY CALLS" TO OSLO, COPENHAGEN AND HELSINKI IN COURSE OF NEXT MONTH BUT OTHERWISE HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO TRAVEL ABROAD. HE WILL NOT ATTEND CURRENT UNGA.

6. WE TOUCHED BILATERAL RELATION QUESTION ONLY LIGHTLY. ANDERSSON SAID HE HOPED MY RELATIONS WITH MFA WERE GOOD AND, GETTING AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER, SAID HE WAS PLEASED AND ADDED HE WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE ME WHENEVER I FELT NEED. IN INDIRECT ALLUSION TO AMBASSADOR QUESTION, ANDERSSON COMMENTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD HAD HEAVY GO OF IT ALMOST FROM MOMENT OF BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER. I AGREED AND OPINED HE PROBABLY HAD HAD LIMITED TIME FOR MATTERS NOT LABELED URGENT. ANDERSSON SAID HE WELL UNDERSTOOD. WE CLOSED THAT SUBJECT BOTH EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT BILATERAL REPRESENTATION WOULD GET BACK TO NORMAL AT SOME UNSPECIFIED TIME.

7. SIGURDSEN TOLD ME SHE WAS JUST BEGINNING TO GET INTO HER JOB AND WOULD PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN A NEW AND TRICKY FIELD. WITHOUT CALLING HIM BY NAME, SIGURDSEN INDICATED SHE WELL KNEW THAT MFA FOREIGN-AID DIVISION CHIEF, LENNART KLACKENBERG, WAS RUNNING A NEARLY ONE-MAN SHOW AND WOULD NOT TAKE POLICY GUIDANCE EASILY. A TALL, VIGOROUS WOMAN IN THE PRIME OF HER CAREER, SIGURDSEN LOOKS WELL ABLE TO DEFEND HERSELF IN THE BUREAUCRATIC JUNGLE. WHETHER SHE CAN DO AS WELL AT CABINET - LEVEL POLTICS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

8. COMMENT: BOTH ANDERSSON AND SIGURDSEN ARE BOTH PERSONALLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. SIGURDSEN SPENT A COUPLE OF MONTHS TOURING U.S. A DECADE AGO AND HAS PERSONAL FRIENDS IN LOS ANGELES AREA. ANDERSSON HAS CLEARLY BEEN BRIEFED ON CURRENT STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. MOSTLY BY INDIRECTION, HE CONVEYED IDEA THAT HE THOUGHT REPRESENTATION MATTER SHOULD BE CLEARED UP BUT HE WAS NOT CONSUMED BY IMPATIENCE OR ANXIETY OVE THE PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS, HE LIKE EVERYONE IN MFA IS WATCHING EXPERTANTLY FOR SIGNS THAT ICE WILL CRACK IN WASHINGTON.

OLSEN

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